Juries-1934

HARTFORD, CONN.
COURANT

MAY 11 1934

Negroes for Jury Service

The inclusion of the names of Negroes in the list of candidates being considered for jury service in Hartford is an innovation. The jury commission shows a commendable liberal spirit in taking this action. Coming as it does soon after the engagement of a Negro physician by the Board of Public Welfare Commissioners to care for those families on relief that request his services, it demonstrates the respect in which those Negroes who have long been citizens of Hartford are held.

Few who know the Negro leaders will be surprised that the commission has expressed itself as favorably impressed by the twenty-nine candidates after interviewing them individually. Among these men are war veterans, college graduates, property-owners,—men of high character. Their capacity to deal justly and intelligently upon evidence cannot be doubted by those who consider their qualifications and their records.

To place one or more of their names on the city jury list would in itself constitute an act of justice because Negro citizens are called upon to perform all other services required of other citizens, including the payment of taxes and response to the call to arms in time of war. In cases involving Negroes as defendants, the right of trial by their peers would then be fulfilled in a new sense, one through which the Negroes of Hartford would gain new pride and loyalty to the city and new respect for themselves.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
May 18, 1934

ABANDON PLANS FOR WHITE-NEGRO JURY

Only White Jurors Will Hear Case of Greenway.

A jury of white men will try Arthur Greenway, negro teacher, on a charge of criminally assaulting a negro girl pupil.

Plans to admit negroes to the jury have been dropped by Judge E. G. Stooksbury in Criminal Court and a special venire of 50 white men has been summoned for the case, set for next Monday.

It had been originally planned to summon 30 white and 30 negro men and have a mixed jury. Eighteen white jurymen now serving notified Attorney General Bibb they would not serve on a mixed jury. Then the authorities decided to have either an all-white or an all-negro jury.

This plan, too, was dropped yesterday when Ray Jenkins, attorney for Greenway, withdrew his original motion for a special venire of negroes. He acted at the request of negro leaders who felt 'it would create another feeling of race consciousness," he said.

GREEKS BEARING GITS

Announcement issued during the past week that Attorney Ray Jenkins, white member of the bar, had requested a a special panel of local Negro citizens from which jurors might be selected to try a case in the Knox county criminal court involving all Negroes has served to arouse widespread interest and has elicited much comment 5-17-34

Time and time again, during the past few years, the East Tennessee News has waged the contention that names of Negroes should be placed in the jury box from which jurors are selected to sit on cases in our courts. Refusal on the part of those in authority to select the names of Negroes for the jury box is not only a practice savoring of the rankest sort of discrimination, but, according to rulings of the United States Supreme Court, is contrary to the laws governing the rights of citizens as guaranteed under the Constitution. East Tennessee News

The surprise occasioned among the local citizenship, especially those of the thoughtful Negro element, in view of the demand of Attorney Jenkins for Negro jurors is accompanied with the query: "why the request for Negroes on this jury involving all Negroes when situations have arisen wherein the presence of Negroes on juries trying Negroes for capital crimes committed against white persons would have gone far toward assuring the fair administration of justice, and the mere suggestion of a demand for Negroes on such juries was not accorded even slight consideration by this lawyer."

There is not the least question but that a sufficient number of competent jurors could be selected from the local Negro citizenship to accord any defendant, white or Negro, a fair trial and intelligently decide the case which they may be called to hear, upon the law and the facts. However, the request for a Negro jury in this instance should not be prompted by any ulterior motive and there should be no misconstruing of attitudes of Negroes as men are called upon to assume so important a role as administering justice in one of our courts.

The crime charged in the case in question is of far too serious a nature for an experimenting either with the rights of the defendant or the injured young woman. If Attorney Jenkins can offer convincing proof of his earnestness and consistency in the matter of his demands for Negroes to serve on juries—this jury as well as others that may be selected in the future, all well and good, he'll have the undivided support of all justice-loving citizens, but if his motives in this instance evidence that they are ulterior to the very slightest degree, his actions will be promptly frowned upon.

Anyway, the suggestion of Negroes for jury service at this late date and in this particular case in which the lawyer himself is extremely interested, cannot but be viewed with a cerain amount of suspicion and the same will be considered one of "Greeks bearing gifts," until proven otherwise.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
TIMES UNION

MAY 11 1934

Bar Members Hear Talk By Dr. C.E.Royce

President Jones Announces Jury List Does Not Include Negroes' Names.

Members of the Jacksonville Bar Association heard about infections at the monthly meeting of the organization at the Carling hotel.

from Dr. Clayton E. Royce yesterday

Dr. Royce, talking on "Infection," explained the difference between inflammation and infection, asserting that an infectious disease is bacterially caused. An infectious disease is not necessarily contagious, he commented, adding that contagious diseases are spread by contacts. He outlined the various types of infection.

W. D. Jones Jr., president of the association, announced yesterday to the association that there were no negroes on the jury list in Duval County. He said he had received a number of inquiries and had asked John S. Bond if the jury commission had placed any negroes on the list. The reply was, Mr. Jones told the association, that there were no negroes on the list to be drawn from the jury boxes unless names of negroes had been inadvertently chosen in making up the list.

Four attorneys were elected to membership in the association yesterday. They are James T. Etheridge, Paul Ritter, R. E. Williams and F. H. Scruggs.

All-White Jury is Picked for Trial of 6 Chicago Workers

Defendants Framed for Protesting Against Relief, Jim-Crowism

(Daily Worker Midwest Bureau)

CHICAGO, Ill., May 15.—Six workers faced an all-white jury in the Criminal Court in Chicago today on charges of assault with intent to murder, and conspiracy. The charges were framed up following a vicious police attack on a demonstration of Negro and white workers at a relief station on the South Side a year ago.

Today's court session was occupied with selecting a jury. Two Negroes on the panel, one a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, were rejected by the prosecution without even being questioned after they had been accepted by the defense.

The court room was packed with workers, who answered the call of the International Labor Defense to show their solidarity with the defendants.

The defendants are David R. Pointdexter, Henry Coe, Jesse Smith, Charles Hampton, Delia Page and Mae Wernick. They are being tried in the court of Judge Allegretti at 26th St. and California Ave.

The defense will begin to present its evidence Wednesday.

Alabama Lawyer Denies Negro Jurymen Barred

WASHINGTON, D. C. (CNA)—"Negroes are not barred from Alabama juries because of their race," was the amazing contention made by Attorney-General Thomas E. Knight in a brief opposing the review by the U. S. Supreme Court of the cases of Haywood Patterson and Clarence Norris, two of the Scottsboro boys. Knight filed his brief on December 10, in answer to the brief filed by the attorneys of the International Labor Defense.

Knight conceded that the systematic exclusion of Negroes from juries would violate the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, but denied that they had been excluded because of their race or color.

In the Decatur trial of Patterson and Norris, the attorneys for the I.L.D. fought the issue of exclusion of Negroes from juries. The state contended that no Negroes in the locality were qualified to serve as jurors.

Juries-1934

WOMAN NAMED TO N.J. GRAND JURY.

Trenton, N.J.-Mrs. A.K. Burt, 53 Mechanic Avenue, was drawn for Grand jury service last Thursday, along with twelve other colored persons for jury duty in Mercer County.

Mrs. Burt is a retired school teacher. Two local morticians have been named as morgue keepers- Squire Newsome and Samuel S. Dade.

Afro-American
May 5, 1934
Baltimore, Marvland

Draw Woman For Jury Duty; Makes Record

Retired Teacher Is On Grand Jury Panel In New Jersey

Planet 5-5-34 Richmond, Va.

TRENTON, N. J. — For the first time in the history of New Jersey a colored woman has been drawn for Grand Jury service.

Mrs. A. K. Burt, 53 Memhanic avenue, a retired school teachers, and vice chairman of the Colored Republican Executive Committee of the City of Trenton, will serve as a member of the May Grand Jury, having been drawn last Thursday.

Credit for this is being given to Edward E. Williams, chairman of the Colored Republican Executive Committee, who is said to have called the attention of Dr. Chas. H. Mitchell, county chairman of the Republican city and county officials to the fact that the 6,000 colored voters of Trenton and Mercar county were demanding equal opportunities and expected them from hese offcials.

As a result last January, ten colored persons were drawn for duty, and last week twelve were drawn, with Mrs. Burt being chosen to serve.

A further result of the Williams' protest was the appointment of two colored undertakers, Squire Newsome and Samuel S. Dade, as Morgue Keepers, these being also the first appointments of their kind here.

Knoxville, Tenn., News-Sentinel
May 10, 1934

JURORS OPPOSE 'MIXING' PLAN

Some Reported To Have Told Bibb They Will Refuse To Serve With Negroes.

Plans to have a mixed jury try Arthur Greenway, Austin High School teacher, charged with criminal attack on a negro girl, encountered difficulties today at the Court House.

Most of the members of the three juries in service, it was reported, notified Attorney General Bibb they would not serve with negroes on the jury.

Mr. Bibb, questioned about the reported serving of the notice, declined to make a statement.

Charles W. Wright, one of the jurors, said members had informed him they had decided to refuse to serve in a mixed jury. "I told them it was their duty to serve," said Mr. Wright. "I am going to serve if I am selected."

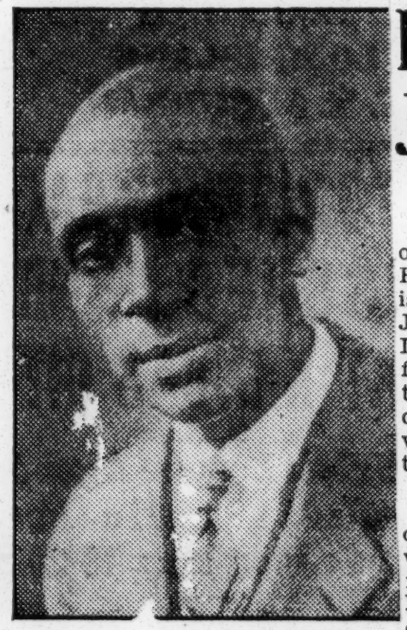
Judge Stooksbury has approved a motion by Ray Jenkins, attorney defending the school principal, to summon a panel of 30 negroes for jurymen in the Greenway case.

It was reported, tho unconfirmed, that an arrangement was made to have negro members fed and roomed by themselves apart from white members.

However, it was pointed out today the state law provides juries shall not be separated, and the Supreme Court in one case where a jury was separated, reversed it without going into the record.

On Federal Court Juries Here

T. HARRISON SHIELDS



WALTER C. FULFORD

DANIEL BROWN

J. W. ANDERSON

These men are serving on the May term juries of the U.S. District Court, for the Eastern District of Virginia, sitting in Norfolk, Judge Luther B. Way, presiding. Messrs. Shields and Fulford are on the grand jury, and Messrs. Brown and Anderson on the trial petty panel.

Mr. Shields is bookkeeper for the Guide Publishing Company. Mr. Fulford is on the faculty of Washington High School; Mr. Brown is employed in the government service; and Mr. Anderson is secretary of the Hunton Branch Y. M. C. A. They are the second quartet of colored men called for service on Federal juries here in recent months.

Appears In Hustings Petit Jury Box!!!

Planet 5-26-34 Richmond, Va.

Colored jurors are appearing on the petit jury panels in the Hustings Court of Richmond, it is learned this week. Judge John J. Ingram has called Walter McIntyre for service on the jury for this term of court. McIntyre was seated in the jury box on two occasions last week, but was scratched in each case by the defense attorneys.

Scratched in Murder Case.

In the case of James Taylor, of North Eighth Street, charged with the murder of James Durant, at Seventh and Clay on March 17, McIntyre was retained by the Commonwealth but struck out by the defense. Taylor was given twelve years in the Virginia Penitentiary. It was alleged there was bad blood between the men because of the wife of Durant. Juror McIntyre was also struck by the defense in a highway robbery case.

Petit Juror First in Many Years.

Richmond courts have not seen petit jurors in many years, it was learned. Judge Ingram and Judge Wells have been using colored grand jurors about six months. The general use of colored jurors in Virginia has been growing since the great fight put up by Attorney Charles Houston in the Crawford case.

HARTFORD, CONN.
TIMES
MAY 10 1934

Negro Jurymen.

Hartford has in its population such a considerable number of excellent Negro citizens and is so far removed from circumstances prevailing in many sections of the south that there would appear to be only propriety in announced intention of the jury commissioners to submit to the clerk of the Hartford county superior court the names of twenty-nine local Negroes for the next city jury list. Not only is such a course compatible with a loyal regard for the constitution, but it is a matter of justice, as we see it. This is something which goes beyond a social concern. It has to do with governmental rights which ought to be protected in full dutifulness by officials of the law.

CONN. MINISTERS WIN IN FIGHT FOR JURORS

HARTFORD, Conn.—As the result of a persistent fight waged by a committee of local ministers, headed by the Rev. R. A. Moody, colored men will be included, for the first time, in the next jury list for Hartford County.

Insistence on the part of the group resulted in a conference between Mayor Beach and the jury commission, following which the mayor requested the Rev. Mr. Moody to submit a list of eligible colored citizens.

Of forty-nine men whose names were submitted, twenty-nine appeared last Tuesday for a conference with the commissioners, who expressed favorable impressions of the men interviewed, one of whom holds three college degrees.

PROMINENT NEGRO SERVES AS MEMBER OF FEDERAL JURY

PROF. C. H. McGRUDER, grand secretary of the United Brothers of Friendship and Sisters of Mysterious Ten of Texas, president of the Laymen's Convention of the General Baptist Convention of Texas and prominent in educational, fraternal, religious, civic, business and social circles, has just completed his tenure as member of the petit jury in the United States District Court for Southern Texas, presided over by Judge T. M. Kennerly at Houston.

While such instances are not rare in the federal court in this district, as several Negroes have served in such a capacity during the past few years, in face of the practice pursued both in federal and state courts of barring Negro citizens from jury service through some device in various Southern communities and even in some Northern centers, the honor which came to Mr. McGruder deserves special mention; since he is one of the most representative members of the colored contingent in Houston Texas and the South.

Augusta County (Va.) Has First Mixed Jury

STAUNTON, Va.—As a result of legal angles introduced into the George Crawford case, Augusta County will have its first mixed jury, this week, when Charles Thompson answers a call for petit jury service.

Negroes' Exclusion From Juries Used In Fight By Ades Against Disbarment

BALTIMORE, Md.—Proceedings to disbar Bernard Ades from practice in the state courts of Maryland opened last week in a crowded courtroom with an attack by the defense on the exclusion of Negro attorneys from the Baltimore City Bar Association. In a preliminary motion to dismiss, Joseph R. Brodsky, chief counsel for the International Labor Defense appearing on behalf of Ades, eloquently and forcefully argued for the dismissal of the charges against Ades preferred by the Baltimore Bar Association on the ground that the Association excluded Negroes from membership and that as such charges are based upon Ades' defense of Negroes the charges and entire proceeding are improper and unlawful. He drew an analogy between the formulation of charges by the Association, a quasi-judicial function, and the return of an indictment by a grand jury and argued that systematic exclusion of Negroes in either case was unconstitutional.

The prosecution of Ades, attorney for the I. L. D. and Communist Party candidate for governor of Maryland in the last election, arises out of the fight he waged against the exclusion of Negroes from juries on the Eastern shore of Maryland in the cases of Euel Lee, Page Jupiter and George Davis. A previous effort to muzzle Ades resulted in his suspension from the bar of the Federal district court for five month; although disbarment was refused in that instance and Ades was reinstated he was "reprimanded" by the court. The present attempt to disbar Ades is brought before nine judges of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore assembled to hear this case. His defense is conducted by Joseph Brodsky and Edward Kuntz, who has handled many I. L. D. cases and who participated in the cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses.

DISBAR ATTORNEY FOR FIGHTING FOR NEGRO RIGHTS

BALTIMORE, Md. -(CNA) For challenging the lily-white jury practices of the Maryland courts, Bernard Ades, attorney for the International Labor Defense, was last week suspended from the practice of law for three months by the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City.

Acting as counsel for Ades, Joseph Brodsky, of the staff of the International Labor Defense, charged that the Baltimore Bar Association, which brought the action against Ades, has violated its own charter and constitution by barring Negro attorneys and women from membership.

The proceedings against Ades grew out of the Euel Lee and other cases, which Ades defended.

Brodsky demanded to know why the association has taken no action on a letter demanding that Negro lawyers and women be admitted to the organisation, while at the same time pushing so vigorously the action against Ades. He forced Burdette B. Webster (white), president of the bar group, to admit on the witness stand that a letter asking such admission for Negroes and women had been tabled.

action in every case.

It is not untimely, to inquire now, when our local courts are going to get around to the matter of calling some colored jurors for duty? Colored jurors serve each term in the Federal court here, both on the grand and petit juries. It would be in line with Norfolk's customary recognition of worth upon the part of her colored citizens, as well as the fulfillment of a delayed act of justice were our local courts to follow in the foosteps of other distinguished Virginia jurists.

A Juror In Warwick Co.

GRADUALLY the courts of the State are recognizing the justice and fitness of calling Negroes for jury service. A few weeks ago Judge ARMISTEAD, of Warwick county, summoned a member of the race for grand jury service in his court. He was following precedents set within recent months by Judges INGRAHAM and WELLES, of Richmond; COLEMAN, of Fredericksburg and MCLEMORE, of Nansemond.

There have been no untoward reactions to the high-minded performance of their duties by these jurists, and there will be none. We are sure their actions will be followed by other courts, and that public sentiment will sustain the

Juries-1934

Negro Sits On South Carolina Jury

Columbia, S. C., Jan. (By the Associated Negro Press)—Olin Colored man, James Oliver, sat on a jury in condemnation proceedings here last week, in which an award was made to the white plaintiff. The defendant company was also white. Negroes are drawn for jury ervice here, but they rarely serve.

Oklahoma's Jury System

Regardless to the outcome of the Jess Hollins trial grea service has been given to the constitutional rights of Ne groes through the exposure of the rotten, unfair jury sy tem in vogue in Oklahoma. In attacking the legality c the jury panel Tuesday, Judge Hill, counsel for Jess Ho lins, lifted the veil and exposed the squirming, putrid for of prejudice as it has never been viewed before in thi state.

An Okmulgee county jury commissioner admitted unde oath that the jury commission did not meet as a body, and as directed by the statutes, draw names from the tax rolls He stated, rather hesitatingly, that he brought in a ran dom, self-prepared list and another sent a list by his son and that he personally had asked men on the street to sug gest names.

Respecting the special venire, it was shown by the re marks of the sheriff and by the sworn testimony of th jurors in the box that instead of selecting men "from th body of the county," the deputy stood around in the cour house and selected professional jurors and persona friends.

In selecting the jury, Judge Hill was able to prove by th men who sat in the box that the laws of the state had bee violated in that at least one-fourth of them had served i the same capacity "within the preceding twelve months.' It is obvious to the most simple how easy it is to exclud Negroes from jury service, and how there is no chance t by mistake call one to service when the jury commissio and the deputy sheriffs of the county are walking around looking at the men they call. These officials may be blind to reason and justice, but their ocular vision has been functioning unrelentingly, and with precision.

If the N. A. A. C. P. has done nothing more than expose Oklahoma's rotten jury system, in this, is justification fo the fight being made for Jess Hollins. Incidentally, we might say here and now that there is enough reversible er ror in the Jess Hollins case to keep him alive for many moons. In the Supreme Court of the United States, Okla homa may become convinced that the state cannot officially kill men without due process of law.

Nansemond County Faces The Jury Question

NANSEMOND county has faced the jury question squarely and decided it frankly in the letter and spirit of the law. Of the pane

HARTFORD, CONN. COURANT

MAR 16 1934

Want Negroes On Juries.

Seeking to have Negroes serve in their regular turn on juries a committee of members of the Hartford Ministerial Alliance called upon Mayor Beach Wednesday afternoon for a discussion of the situation. Following the meeting the Mayor said that he would look into the situation and would write to former Alderman Raymond J. Dunn, a member of the jury commission, to ascertain the facts.

15 ON JURY LIST IN NANSEMOND COUNTY

First Selection of Negroes in 30 Years

SUFFOLK, Va. — Of the 175 names on the jury list for Nansemond County as drawn by three white jury commissioners at the order of Judge James L. McLemore, famous Crawford trial judge, are the names of 15 Negroes. The publication of the names on the jury list is forbidden and further impossible because of the manner it is guarded.

This marks the first time in 30 years that Negroes have been included on the lists drawn for this county. The commissioners drawing up the list were Herbert Harrell, of Driver; E. T. Batten of Holland and D. C. Cotten of Chuckatuck.

S. M. Lawrence and Charles F Taylor, jury commissioners for the city of Suffolk, have not yet drawn the list for the city.

The appearance of Negroes recently on grand juries throughout the state at first created quite a sensation when the first selection was made fifteen judicial district over which Judge Frederick W. Coleman presides.

The 15 selected in Nansemond County, however are to serve on petit juries in which capacity the appearance of Negroes is even yet more rare.

Judge McLemore who presides over the Nansemond Court ruled adversely on two occasions when the questions of Negro jurors was raised by the defense. He pointed out. However, that his denials

of 175 persons summoned for jury duty in the next session of the Circuit Court of the county 15 are colored. It is the first time that colored men have been called for jury duty in Nansemond county since the constitutional convention of 1901-02, which quite frankly intended to nullify the benefits of citizenship conferred upon colored citizens by the 14th and 15th amendments to the federal constitution.

In the action last Fall of Judges WELLES and INGRAHAM of the Richmond Hustings Court and Judge COLEMAN of the 15th Judicial Circuit, embracing the city of Fredericksburg and the counties of Hanover, Stafford, Caroline, King George and Spottsylvania, in calling colored men for grand jury service, and the more sweeping action of Judge JAMES L. MCLEMORE, who presides over the Nansemond county courts, we see a gradual return of constitutional rights to Negroes in Virginia in the processes of law administration.

This return of constitutional safeguards to colored Virginians, as well as to members of the race in other parts of the south was hastened by the very system that was set up to speed their departure. Complete denial of constitutional rights to Negroes has resulted in political and legal abuses such as characterized the notorious Scottsboro case, in which the systematic exclusion of colored men from jury duty was a substantial factor in the grounds for appeal to the United States Supreme Court. Later the question was raised in Virginia in the Crawford case, over which Judge MCLEMORE presided. Although there was no appeal in this case, it was evident all along that Virginia desired none, and Judge MCLEMORE'S action in summoning colored men for jury duty in Nansemond county, is sufficient indication that he, along with many other Virginia jurists, is convinced of the soundness and equity of the question raised at Scottsboro, at Decatur and at Leesburg.

Thirty years have witnessed tremendous changes in social and political thinking in Virginia. These years have wrought great upward changes in the social status of Negroes. It is these changes that have made for understanding between the races and that have paved the way for the relaxation of unjust discriminations in the administration of our courts of justice. It is these changes that created the public sentiment that supports a more liberal administration of our election laws. It is these changes that will, in the not distant future, break down the gross discriminations in our system of public education. Strange as it may seem, it is in the field of public education that resistance to justice is most persistent.

Athens, Ga., Banner-Herald
March 18, 1934

OPPOSED TO NEGRO JURYMEN

A hullabaloo has been raised in many sections of the country over the failure of courts in the South permitting negroes to serve on juries in the state courts. One of the grounds for a new trial for the negroes in the noted Scottsboro, Alabama, rape cases was based on the fact that no member of the jury trying these negroes was a member of the negro race. However, such is not the case in the South. In the federal courts, negroes are drawn on the juries and in many instances they serve. However, a most unusual case occurred in Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. A negro Bishop was being tried for alleged violation of the Mann white slave law. A negro was drawn to serve on the case. The attorney for the state accepted him, but the attorney for the negro Bishop challenged him and caused his name to be stricken from the jury to try one of his own race.

The South has been criticised and held up before the public as doing the negro an injustice by not allowing him to serve on juries. Race prejudice has been charged as the cause by our brethren of the northern states, and now when they have an opportunity for a negro to sit on a case of one of his own race, the juryman is rejected. There is little consistency in such action and it should be an answer to all criticism that the negroes of the southern states are not treated fairly in that their names are not in the jury boxes.

The average negro prefers to be tried by a jury of white men rather than by a jury of his own race. In the Brooklyn case, the negro Bishop preferred twelve white men to a jury of eleven white men and one negro. The negroes of the south have more faith in the white man than they have in their own race. If the negro was left alone to work out his own salvation with his friends in the south, he would fare much better and experience less strife and trouble in the courts or otherwise.

were based on apparent absence of exclusion of Negroes from jury service rather than a denial of their right to serve. The latter right has been clearly established Judge McLemore said during the Leesburg trial.

In making their list, the commission is said to have considered citizens from all sections of the county, finally naming 175. The law requires that they select not less than 100 nor more than 300.

It is said in official circles that

he commission chose 15 Negroes who met the qualifications of "intelligence and honesty." There was no conscious apportionment between the races, but rather a choice based on known qualifications. Those chosen are said to represent the best type of citizens in the county regardless of color.

REASON FOR REJECTION

Some of our southern dailies gleefully noted the refusal of a colored man serving on the jury of the Grace-Campbell trial in Brooklyn two weeks ago. This colored man was on the panel. He was accepted by the state but rejected by the defendant bishop. These dailies aver that clamour continues for the selecting of colored men on the jury and cited in this case that when the opportunity presented itself the colored bishop objected to his services. The objection of the defendant was not made solely upon racial lines, but because he was looking out especially for his best interest in the presentation of his case. The defendant bishop is aware of the fact that with the intelligent among our people he does not hold a popular place, because he is looked upon as a parasite, preying upon the more credulous. With this idea in mind he readily objected to the colored juror. This fact should be understood by these gleeful dailies. The Herald, of Albany, this state, makes this notation:

A rather remarkable thing happened Wednesday in a Brooklyn, N. Y., court. A Negro bishop, Charles Manuel Grace, was being tried for alleged violation of the Mann white slave law. A jury was being selected.

Thomas Blackman was among those drawn for jury service. Blackman is a Negro. The attorney for the state accepted him as one of the twelve to hear the evidence and determine the guilt or innocence of the accused, but the Negro bishop's attorney promptly challenged him, and he was excused.

Comparatively few Negroes serve on juries in the United States. In the South with the occasional exception of a Negro juror in a United States court, such service is almost unknown. In the North Negroes occasionally serve, but their spokesman frequently claim that the race is discriminated against. For, they contend, a Negro defendant or litigant is denied justice if representatives of his race are not permitted to serve on juries.

Yet in a Brooklyn court a Negro charged with a criminal offense was unwilling for a member of his race to sit on the jury in whose hands his fate was to be placed. He preferred twelve white jurors to a jury made up of eleven white men and one colored man.

ATHENS, GA.
BANNER HERALD

MAR 18 1934

OPPOSED TO NEGRO JURYMEN

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SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

MAR 16 1934

MERELY BOWING TO THE INEVITABLE

According to a news story appearing in these columns yesterday Negroes hereafter will serve on petit juries in Nansemond county. Drawing our own conclusion, we would say that members of that race will also be listed among the grand jurors for the same re[illegible] the jury commission felt constrained to include Negroes on the eligible list for petit jury service. It is useless to say that this is the outcome of rulings of the federal courts in construing the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the federal constitution. No state can legally abridge the rights of its citizens regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

Prior to the adoption, or rather the proclamation, of the state constitution of 1902 Negroes of good character in Virginia enjoyed all the civil rights and privileges of other citizens. They served on grand and petit juries and on election boards along with white men whether the latter liked it or not, although the intimate association and contact were probably not exactly pleasant. But it was accepted as a matter of necessity and as a duty of good citizenship and so far as we recall it occasioned no racial friction. It was merely in compliance with the basic law of the nation.

One would naturally imagine that in those remote days racial instincts would have rebelled against such a system, but we do not recall that it culminated in any resentment among the better class of white people. But in the early part of the present century a constitutional convention was called and after months of deliberations it brought forth the charter of rights under which we are living today with a few minor amendments none of which attempted to abridge the inherent right of any citizen. While it did throw certain restrictions and safeguards around the ballot, voting is a privilege and not a right. But it did not in any manner infringe upon the right of anyone qualified to perform jury service. What has occurred since to bar the qualified Negro in that respect has been arbitrarily written into it, apparently by common consent.

No criticism can justly lie at the door of the Nansemond county jury commissioners for acknowledging the right of qualified Negro citizens to serve in the capacity of jurors and it is no innovation. It is simply returning to a system that is mandatory under the federal constitution, according to the highest court in the land, and as good citizens we must accept that dictum as final. It is highly creditable to our Virginia judiciary that the best of it refuses to be even contributory or tacit violators of the nation's basic law which, if continued, will bring the state into violent conflict with the higher courts.

We would say also for the benefit of leaders of political parties that they would be wise to follow the example of courts of justice and cease their efforts to evade federal constitutional provisions. It cannot be done with impunity as court decisions in Virginia have already demonstrated. The civil rights of all people must be held inviolate if we are to attain those higher ideals of American citizenship toward which all good citizens are striving—irrespective of race, color or creed.

Call Negroes to Serve on Ala. Juries

Mr. [illegible] M. Shorter, president of the Star Coal Corporation and one of the leading Negro business men in Birmingham and many others of the race have been called to serve on the Jefferson county criminal jury recently.

Many lawyers have been heard to say that they would just as leave argue a case before a jury on which Negroes sat as to an all white jury.

Jefferson county, due to the fact that Birmingham is its capital, is considered the most liberal county in Alabama. There are many seemingly very fair white people in the county. It is not unlikely that ere long it will be a not unusual sight to see Negroes serving on all juries.

he commission chose 15 Negroes who met the qualifications of "intelligence and honesty." There was no conscious apportionment between the races, but rather a choice based on known qualifications. Those chosen are said to represent the best type of citizens in the county regardless of color.

REASON FOR REJECTION

Some of our southern dailies gleefully noted the refusal of a colored man serving on the jury of the Grace Campbell trial in Brooklyn two weeks ago. This colored man was on the panel. He was accepted by the state but rejected by the defendant bishop. These dailies aver that clamour continues for the selecting of colored men on the jury and cited in this case that when the opportunity presented itself the colored bishop objected to his services. The objection of the defendant was not made solely upon racial lines, but because he was looking out especially for his best interest in the presentation of his case. The defendant bishop is aware of the fact that with the intelligent among our people he does not hold a popular place, because he is looked upon as a parasite, preying upon the more credulous. With this idea in mind he readily objected to the colored juror. This fact should be understood by these gleeful dailies. The Herald, of Albany, this state, makes this notation:

A rather remarkable thing happened Wednesday in a Brooklyn, N. Y., court. A Negro bishop, Charles Manuel Grace, was being tried for alleged violation of the Mann white slave law. A jury was being selected.

Thomas Blackman was among those drawn for jury service. Blackman is a Negro. The attorney for the state accepted him as one of the twelve to hear the evidence and determine the guilt or innocence of the accused, but the Negro bishop's attorney promptly challenged him, and he was excused.

Comparatively few Negroes serve on juries in the United States. In the South with the occasional exception of a Negro juror in a United States court, such service is almost unknown. In the North Negroes occasionally serve, but their spokesman frequently claim that the race is discriminated against. For, they contend, a Negro defendant or litigant is denied justice if representatives of his race are not permitted to serve on juries.

Yet in a Brooklyn court a Negro charged with a criminal offense was unwilling for a member of his race to sit on the jury in whose hands his fate was to be placed. He preferred twelve white jurors to a jury made up of eleven white men and one colored man.

ATHENS, GA.
BANNER HERALD

MAR 18 1934

OPPOSED TO NEGRO JURYMEN

A hullabaloo has been raised in many sections of the country over the failure of courts in the South permitting negroes to serve on juries in the state courts. One of the grounds for a new trial for the negroes in the noted Scottsboro, Alabama, rape cases was based on the fact that no member of the jury trying these negroes was a member of the negro race. However, such is not the case in the South. In the federal courts, negroes are drawn on the juries and in many instances they serve. However, a most unusual case occurred in Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. A negro Bishop was being tried for alleged violation of the Mann white slave law. A negro was drawn to serve on the case. The attorney for the state accepted him, but the attorney for the negro Bishop challenged him and caused his name to be stricken from the jury to try one of his own race.

The South has been criticised and held up before the public as doing the negro an injustice by not allowing him to serve on juries. Race prejudice has been charged as the cause by our brethren of the northern states, and now when they have an opportunity for a negro to sit on a case of one of his own race, the juryman is rejected. There is little consistency in such action and it should be an answer to all criticism that the negroes of the southern states are not treated fairly in that their names are not in the jury boxes.

The average negro prefers to be tried by a jury of white men rather than by a jury of his own race. In the Brooklyn case, the negro Bishop preferred twelve white men to a jury of eleven white men and one negro. The negroes of the south have more faith in the white man than they have in their own race. If the negro was left alone to work out his own salvation with his friends in the south, he would fare much better and experience less strife and trouble in the courts or otherwise.

SUFFOLK, VA.
NEWS HERALD

MAR 16 1934

MERELY BOWING TO THE INEVITABLE

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